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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. International Federation for Family Development

(Special; 1999)

Part 1 – Introductory Statement

The aim and purpose of IFFD and its Federated Associations (FA'S) are as follows:

- Providing a comprehensive system of educational materials, teacher training and support and related know-how to enable our FA's to carry out parent training programs alongside families throughout the world, based on the proven pedagogy of the case method of instruction.
- Promotion and support of every kind of initiative to strengthen the family as an educational and developmental entity, recognizing that families can be highly efficient social agents for poverty alleviation, intergenerational dialog, care for the elderly and prevention of risky childhood behaviors.
- Organization of congresses, seminars, expert group meetings and symposia at the national, regional and international level to share expertise across the network of Federated Association's and with other organizations interested in healthy family life.
- Collaboration with United Nations entities and agencies on all topics related to family policy, and to assist other regional and national organizations with family policy inputs.

Part II - Contribution to work of United Nations

Summarized below are the major meetings and events in which IFFD participated in during the period 2003 through 2006:

1. On 29-30 October 2004 IFFD held its XVIth International Family Congress, entitled Family Life, Development & Culture at the United Nations in New York, concurrent with the observance of the International Year of the Family, plus 10. Attending were over 400 parent delegates from around the world, plus numerous members of the Secretariat, staff from Permanent Missions and other NGO's. The Congress speakers discussed the role of the family in achieving development goals. Panelists exchanged experiences in working on parent education courses within the IFFD approach to parent training and intergenerational dialog. This event was open to the United Nations community in New York. The United Nations Journal, Programme of Daily Meetings announced the sessions and additionally personal and written invitations were distributed throughout the Secretariat and to many of the Permanent Missions. The Proceedings of the Congress have been widely distributed.
2. 61st Session of the General Assembly, Third Committee October-December 2006: The report of the Study of Violence Against Children was issued, which identified the protective factor of good parenting, the need to strengthen parents, the negative influences of lack of parent-child attachment and family breakdown. IFFD representatives had the opportunity of advising many of the Member States where IFFD is active of the role of IFFD programs toward compliance with the recommendations of this report by the strengthening families through parental education.
3. Convention on Disabilities. 15 to 25 August 2006 New York: IFFD representatives brought to the attention of several Member States that the importance of the family in caring for persons with disabilities should be emphasized in the document. This omission was corrected with language suggested by IFFD.
4. Day of Human Rights, December 10, 2006 New York:

IFFD representatives stressed the importance of promoting and supporting family wellbeing in the fight against poverty.

5. Launching of the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family: 4 December 2004 New York: IFFD participated in the High Level Seminar on the Family.

6. Commission for Social Development, 41st session 10-21 February 2003 New York:

IFFD signed on to the Vienna statement on the Family and collaborated on the resolution concerning, "Preparation for the observance of the 10th anniversary of the Year of the Family in 2004."

In addition to the above meetings, IFFD participated in the following recurring meetings in New York over the four-year period of this report:

- 47th-50th sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women; 3-14 March 2003, 1-12 March 2004, 28 February - 11 March 2005, 27 February - 10 March 2006.
- 36th – 39th Sessions of the Commission on Population and Development; 31 March – 4 April 2003, 22-26 March 2004, 4-8 April 2005, 3-7 April 2006.
- 56th – 59th Annual DPI/NGO Conference. New York; 8-10 September 2003, 8-10 September 2004, 7-8 September 2005, 6-8 September 2006.
- NGO Committee on the Family monthly meetings.
- Annual Day of Families Celebration, 15 May 2003-2006.
- IFFD also participated in the following meetings:
- The Economic and Social Council High Level Segment 28-30 June 2004, New York.
- The Economic and Social Council NGO Forum for the Millennium Development Goals 10 March 2005, New York.
- The Department of Economic and Social Affairs Forum on "Integrating Economic and Social Policies to achieve the United Nations Development Agenda," 14-15 March 2005 New York.
- Preparatory event for the Economic and Social Council 2005 High Level Segment on Millennium Development Goals and follow up to Conferences, 16-17 March 2005 New York.
- The Economic and Social Council High Level Segment, 29 June - 2 July 2005 New York.
- Millenium+5 Summit September, 14-16 2005 New York.
- Civil Society Forum, 7 February 2006 New York.
- General Assembly 60th session High-Level Meeting on AIDS, 31 May- 2 June 2006

Part III – Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The family plays a key role in achieving each one of these goals: a society can be only as strong as the families that compose it.

The aim of the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD) is to promote and support every kind of initiative to strengthen the family as an educational and developmental entity, recognizing that families can be highly efficient social agents for poverty alleviation. The

educational programs offered to families help to reduce poverty and hunger for all members of a household (Millennium Development Goal #1).

The popular IFFD Program "First Steps" is directed at the very first learning experiences of children within the family setting and provides practical mechanisms and know how to strengthen the family in its educational role. IFFD has also a course, "Young Grandparents," designed to explore the complex but fruitful relationships across generations within an extended family environment and to incorporate multiple generations in the educational adventure. Both courses advance the goal of **primary universal education** within the family (Millennium Development Goal #2).

The IFFD courses offered are designed for both parents as partners with equal responsibilities. The IFFD cases recognizes that men and boys can and do make significant contributions to **gender equality** as members of families by sharing the educational, caring and upbringing responsibilities. All courses require male participation in all aspects of education and family life, promoting the **empowerment of women** within the family (Millennium Development Goal # 3). Through a comprehensive system of educational materials, teacher training and support, improved child rearing practices and parenting skills IFFD is contributing to the reduction of **child mortality** (Millennium Development Goal #4) improvement of **maternal health** (Millennium Development Goal #5), **combating diseases** within the family (Millennium Development Goal #6), and contributing to **environmental stability** (Millennium Development Goal #7).

Lastly, IFFD programs have achieved **global partnership** (MDG #8) through the organizing of congresses, seminars, expert group meetings and symposia at the national, regional and international levels to share expertise across the network of its associations and other organizations interested in strong family life. IFFD collaborates with United Nations and European Union entities and agencies on all topics related to family policy, assists other regional and national organizations with family policy inputs. IFFD has been actively involved with the Family Unit of DESA, participated in the Fourth Consultative Meeting of Regional and International NGO's on the Family in preparation for the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, participated in the launching events of the 10th Anniversary of the year of the Family on December 4, 2004. In connection with the World Assembly on Ageing (WAA) IFFD cooperated closely with the Secretariat in hosting visitors to Madrid and in the participation, by the IFFD President, in the round table "Dialogue 2020: the Future of Ageing" and his presentation to the General Assembly, meeting as the WAA.

At present IFFD is assisting its Federated Association's in the providing of Family Educational programs in 50 countries around the world with an estimated 50,000 participants.

2. Inter-Press Service International Association

(General; 1991)

PART I. Introduction

i. **Aims and purposes**: IPS-Inter Press Service is a non-profit, international non-governmental organisation, registered in Rome (Italy), active since 1964 in the field of communication and development. Its aims are to contribute to development by promoting free communication, to strengthen South South and South North flows of information and communication, and to involve in these flows actors representative of the whole of society. The IPS Association has 110 members from over 35 different countries. The members are journalists, professional communicators and individuals or bodies active in the field of information and communication. The IPS news network

covers 140 countries. Original news features are produced by IPS in English, Spanish and French with selected translation into 19 language services, reaching media, civil society and the international community with a weekly output of around 260,000 words. IPS also carries out communication projects for training, information exchange and establishment of networks.

ii. **Structural change**: IPS's main implementation agency in the media market is now the IPS International News Agency, a non-profit co-operative consortium created in 2005 and registered in Rome (Italy) with regional desks in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America, which offers a daily, independent news service.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In the period 2003-2006, IPS International Association and IPS International News Agency provided regular independent coverage of the role and activities of the United Nations, which reached the media, civil society and the international community. IPS worked with many United Nations agencies and bodies at the international and regional levels to strengthen communication, and media training and networking around United Nations conferences and events, as well as key issues.

i) **Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings**: IPS regularly reported upon the sessions and work of the Economic and Social Council, as well as providing extensive coverage of the United Nations General Assembly and meetings and conferences of other United Nations programs, bodies and specialized agencies. In addition, IPS produced its independent virtual and/or printed Terra Viva conference newspapers (http://www.ipsterraviva.net/archives.asp) at:

(a) United Nations People's Assembly, Perugia, Italy, 6-12 October 2003.

(b) World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Geneva, Switzerland, 9-12 December 2003 and Tunis 16-18 November 2005.

(c) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) / Group of 77 Meeting, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 11-12 June 2004.

(d) XV International AIDS Conference, co-organized by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) - Bangkok, Thailand, 11-16 July 2004.

(e) Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005.

(f) Millennium Summit, New York, 14-16 September 2005.

(g) International Labour Organisation conference, Bangkok, Thailand, 8-11 May 2006.

(h) Least Developed Countries, United Nations – New York, 18-19 September 2006.

IPS also actively participated in NGO meetings and fora during United Nations conferences and their preparatory sessions, both at headquarters and outside New York. IPS is a member of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO).

ii) **Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**: IPS implemented information and communication projects with many United Nations programs, bodies and specialized agencies, including the following:

(a) The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) focused on strengthening media reporting and outreach on population, gender and reproductive health issues in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Middle East (renewed yearly during the whole reporting period).

(b) The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported reporting on the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on children (2003 and 2004).

(c) Tierramérica: the most important Latin American communication platform on environment and sustainable development supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (www.tierramerica.net) (renewed yearly during the whole reporting period).

(d) Millennium Campaign – Funding for the core elements of the overall Media Strategy of IPS towards the MDGs. (2004 and 2005).

(e) The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) supported media and communication actions around microfinance in 2005 and desertification in 2006.

(f) A series of feature stories on MDGs in Asia was produced with the support of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (2005).

(g) The International Labour Organisation (ILO) supported communication work on labour issues in Asia (2005), and in Latin America for the Mar del Plata Summit of the Americas (4-5 November 2005).

(h) Information society features in Latin America with the support of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) (2003).

(i) The United Nations Development Fund supported a comprehensive communication strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to meeting the MDGs implemented by IPS (2006).

(j) The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) supported background stories and a gender editor to mainstream gender in the TerraViva Summit newspaper (14-16 September 2005).

Also, IPS news stories are regularly featured in the United Nations' Daily Press Clippings compiled by the Department of Public Information for circulation among senior United Nations staffers, including the Secretary-General, members of his cabinet, divisional heads at the Secretariat and heads of United Nations agencies, while IPS Regional Director for North America, Thalif Deen, continues to be a regular panellist in the United Nations TV Program World Chronicle, the weekly half-hour talk show on global issues which is circulated to TV stations worldwide.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st century

IPS identified reporting on the Millennium Development Goals as one of its key priorities and to this end, in 2004, the agency developed an Editorial Strategy premised on how information and communication can contribute to meeting the MDGs, and the specific mission, niche and reach of the IPS news agency and its Columnist Service.

In addition to the relevant activities listed in sections i) and ii) above, IPS developed

(a) Special news-sites dedicated to the MDGs in English, Spanish, Italian, Dutch and French and about Africa and related newsletters in English and Spanish reaching 5,000 individuals, fortnightly.

(b) Cities Newsletters, focused on the MDGs, urban-dwellers and the role of municipalities, in partnership with the City of Rome and United Cities and Local Governments.

(c) Columns and op-eds about the MDGs by global experts and personalities, picked up by mainstream newspapers across the world.

(d) Training journalists about the MDGs for Southern journalists and high-level seminars and reflections for diverse media and civil society actors.

iv) Other relevant activities

(a) The United Nations Bureau of IPS in New York continued to produce the TerraViva Daily Journal which provided United Nations staff and Missions with United Nations-related news and other international policy stories. Other daily and weekly versions of the journal are produced in Brussels (Terra Viva Europe), Johannesburg (Terra Viva Africa, launched in 2003) and Montevideo (Terra Viva en español).

(b) On 10 July 2006 and 13 October 2006 the United Nations Department for Public Information and IPS North America hosted informal lunchtime media workshops on key aspects of the United Nations governance, attracting leading mainstream journalists and United Nations participants.

(c) IPS supported the work of the Group of 77 (G77) through producing and distributing its bulletin. G-77 Journal. New York

(d) IPS held an Annual International Achievement Award Ceremony at the United Nations headquarters with the support of the Secretary-General. The award, which was suspended between 2001-2003, was resumed as from 2004 and given to: The Group of 77 (2004 – the ceremony took place on 14 June 2005), Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) (7 December 2005) and Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations (19 December 2006).

3. Korean Institute for Women and Politics

(Special; 1999)

Part I. Introduction

The Korean Institute for Women and Politics (KIWP) was established in 1989 as a nonprofit NGO for the purpose of promoting the status of women through increased political participation and empowerment. Steadfastly faithful to this purpose, KIWP has successfully undertaken a wide variety of activities. Efforts include research on methods to promote political participation leading to a more democratic political culture for the women of the Republic of Korea; creation of education and training programs to facilitate women's advancement into the National Assembly; promotion of fair voting systems, and education of voters. KIWP has strengthened its networks and cooperative efforts with international women's NGOs and other national and local women's organizations, resulting in increased cooperation among women's organization for political empowerment. Joint projects with the Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP, headquartered in Manila, Philippines) are one example of international cooperation, and one of many efforts undertaken by KIWP which reinforce the United Nations resolutions to promote the status of women.

Part II. Contributions by KIWP to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

Since June 1999, KIWP participated in all of the sessions of the United Nations held at United Nations headquarters in New York on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). At the 49th Session of the CSW, 28 February – 11 March 2005, KIWP helped organize the NGO Parallel Event entitled "*Political Empowerment of Women in East Asia: Review of Implementation for the Beijing Platform for Action*," (2 March 2005). This event was considered to have been very successful as more than 100 women political leaders and NGO representatives from the Asia Pacific region participated. At the 50th Session of the CSW, 27 February – 10 March 2006, KIWP co-hosted with CAPWIP, an NGO Parallel Event on "*The Empowerment of Asia-Pacific Women in Politics: Enhanced Participation of Women in Development*," (1 March 2006). KIWP developed networks of communication with government representatives, international organizations, and other women's NGOs in the Republic of Korea and Asian countries to mobilize public opinion and raise public awareness regarding the condition of women in society and politics.

ii) Cooperation with other NGOs to promote the United Nations goals

KIWP had co-hosted with CAPWIP, the Sixth Asia-Pacific Congress of Women in Politics and Decision Making, Makati City, Philippines, 10-12 February 2006. Five members from KIWP attended the Congress, one as a keynote speaker and others as presenters and facilitators, providing an informative review and analysis of the situation of women in the Republic of Korea regarding political participation. During the Congress, participants worked diligently in the preparation of the "Ten Year Asia Pacific Platform for Action of Women in Politics and Decision Making" as a prelude to the Fiftieth United Nations CSW Conference.

KIWP conducted training programs on '*Making Governance Gender Responsive*' for Asia Pacific women leaders (October 2005 and 2006) in cooperation with CAPWIP. These training sessions were broad based in their intention, with relevance to local government, elected officials in both legislative and executive branches of government, political parties, and NGOs with programs on gender governance as well as training facilities for good governance. KIWP also provided a '*Training of Trainers on Gender Responsiveness, Transformative Leadership, and Politics within the Framework of Building Transformative Communities*' (19-28 September 2005). Thirty three participants from all over Asia and Africa attended this program.

KIWP attended '*Regional Consultation on Women's Rights to Participate in Political and Public Life*,' sponsored by International Women's Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific (IWRAW Asia Pacific) and Indonesian Women Association for Justice (APIK), Jakarta, Indonesia, 9-12 December 2004. Dr. Jungsook Kim, Chairperson of KIWP, as a resource person for the workshop, gave the keynote speech: 'Factors that Impede Women's Political Participation and Strategies for Greater Political Equality.'

iii) Domestic Projects for Women to Promote United Nations Goals

KIWP has held a number of training programs for women voters and political leaders. Firstly, KIWP conducted "*A Survey on Public Opinion of Younger Constituency, in their 20's to 30's, Toward Political Reform and Participation*," as a co-project with the Ministry of Gender Equality of the Republic of Korea, May-June 2003. It also operated the innovative "*Cyber Academy of Women's Politics*," which was partially supported by the Seoul Metropolitan Government's Development Fund for Women, September-November 2003. The Cyber Academy of Women's Politics was

conducted in order to provide opportunities for a greater number of young women to receive political education.

Secondly, KIWP conducted a nationwide survey from April to May 2004 shortly after the 17th general election (April 2004) with the theme '*People's Political Consciousness and Voting Behavior in the 2004 general election*'. The purpose of the survey was to gain a deeper understanding of voter behavior as a function of belief systems.

Thirdly, KIWP, in cooperation with the Ministry of Gender Equality, evaluated "*Activities of Women Members of the National Assembly*," March–November 2005. Female Assembly Members were evaluated based on what they had done for the advancement of women in categories such as: professional skills, overall competency, and attendance and participation in committee meetings and general sessions.

Lastly, KIWP conducted the "*Women's Political Leadership Training Program for the 2006 Local Election*". This program provided women candidates with a means of formulating winning strategies. Women candidates were able to become more confident in their own election processes by exchanging information and ideas and encouraging one another. Perhaps partially as a result of this effort, 12 candidates out of 24 won elections at the constituency level, and 7 candidates were elected as proportional representatives.

One of the primary undertakings of KIWP is to hold forums every other month on women and politics. KIWP forums are conducted to provide a vehicle for discussion of diverse women's issues and to allow interested parties, including other women's groups, to share ideas and strategies for solving impediments to expanding women's political participation. The following themes were emphasized among the KIWP forums held between 2003 and 2006: Political Reform and the Role of Women, 21 February 2003, Seoul; Participation in Politics and Political Consciousness of Voters in their 20's – 30's, 2 July 2003, Seoul; Promoting Women in Politics in Local Elections, 29 August 2003, Seoul; Voter Behavior and Political Consciousness in the 17th General Election, 29 June 2004, Seoul; 2006 Local Election and Greater Participation of Women in Politics, 9 June 2005, Seoul; Local Politics and Women, 8 September 2005, Seoul; Political Achievement of the 17th National Assembly Women, 24 November 2005, Seoul; 2006 Local Election and Women's Political Participation, 19 September 2006, Seoul; 2007 Politics and Women 30 November 2006, Seoul.

In the General Election of 2004, KIWP assisted numerous women candidates by helping them to formulate successful election strategies and to develop critical election skills, January-April 2004, Seoul. KIWP also closely monitored the candidates to better understand the trials and tribulations they encountered during the election processes. Some KIWP members became candidates and many of them won in this general election. This project for supporting and monitoring women candidates was very successful for the advancement of women's politics. It has also been quite useful in terms of providing direction and substance for on-going projects and research for KIWP.

Using information and statistics provided by the Central Election Management Committee, KIWP analyzed various characteristics of women's political participation in the 31 May Local Election. KIWP published newsletters, both in Korean and English, to promote deeper public understanding of the issues involved, and to raise the consciousness of women regarding politics. In addition, these newsletters outlined the activities, programs and plans for future projects to be undertaken by KIWP. KIWP also publishes online newsletters to facilitate people's access to information regarding women and politics. This is seen as a particularly effective endeavor and will continue to be a means that KIWP employs to raise public consciousness.

4. RICS Foundation

(Special; 2003)

Introduction

The main area of interest and activity of RICS Foundation is to support and promote research into sustainability and the built environment, looking at means by which the development, management and governance of the urban form can be approached in such a way as to promote and enhance concepts of sustainable development. This aligns with target 7 of the Millennium Development Goals.

Changes with a significant impact on the organisation

Significant and disrupting change took place in the period 2003-2004, with the loss of a significant amount of donor support and consequent loss of staff.

Activities in pursuit of United Nations Millennium Development Goals

The RICS Foundation has held three meetings aimed at addressing issues relating to environmental sustainability in the urban form, where research projects commissioned by the RICS Foundation were launched to audiences of academics, practitioners and policy-makers with an interest in urban land management. The meetings were held at the RICS Foundation headquarters, London.

This event aimed to raise issues relating to sustainability by looking at research approaches adopted in other paradigms, to see what lesson could be learnt for urban sustainability. Three studies had been commissioned for this launch:

14 January 2003 : Modelling and accounting for sustainable development; (Jan Bebbington and Bryan MacGregor, University of Aberdeen, Scotland); While there appears to be widespread agreement that pursuing sustainable development (SD) constitutes an appropriate public policy goal there is considerable uncertainty about what SD entails in practice for particular organisation, industries and for society in general. In addition to a lack of clarity about exactly what does or does not constitute SD practices, there is also a dearth of information concerning how one may start to make such an assessment. While there are any number of indicator type projects which seek to identify various aspects of SD, what is lacking is a way of evaluating how a range of impacts arising from a single activity, or indeed multiple activities, move society towards or away from SD,. This paper seeks to address this information gap by describing an innovative model which has been developed by BP , the multinational oil company, to assist the evaluation of how the performance profile of particular projects compare with the demands of SD.

The role of information in a sustainable property market; (Harry Bruhns, University College London). Property is a complex phenomenon, non-domestic property particularly so. A nation's building stock is determined and influenced by numerous social, economic and physical factors and it impacts on the environment in many ways. A huge array of market processes are involved. A great deal of information is required to document and manage all these factors, impacts and processes. This paper examines these issues with a view to informing a research agenda that can accurately address the needs of property professionals.

Behavioural finance and urban sustainability: (David Leece, University of Keele). This 'think piece' highlighted those aspects of behavioural finance that can add something to the sustainability research agenda. The relationship between behavioural finance and broader views of how economic systems operate and contribute to or take away from sustainability is also explored. It makes the

case for a multi-paradigm approach that recognises the validity of behavioural finance and an appropriate research agenda is suggested. In particular, it argues that a scientific approach to the 'subjectivity' of market participants could be productive.

This paper forms a general evaluation of the scope for using behavioural finance as a basis for research into property markets and urban sustainability. Rather than adopting a practical case study approach to the work offers a range of concepts and methodologies that might add something new to sustainability research – that is a stirring-up of ideas in addition to a formal research agenda

7 March 2003 - This meeting focussed on two studies commissioned by the RICS Foundation, one a theoretical piece on land values and sustainable development and another looking at the role of the land use planning system in supporting sustainable development.

Land values and sustainable development: (Andrey Pavlov, Simon Fraser University, Canada): This paper investigated the economics of sustainable development when one property owner's pollution reduces property values for other owners, whether national governments, public or private corporations, or individual landowners. Because a property owner does not recognise this negative externality for his or her neighbours, he or she under-protects the environment. This problem is deepest for pollution that has global rather than local impact. Given four alternative strategies for inducing the socially optimal level of environmental protection, the paper concludes that the best solution is to eliminate the externality through better definition and enforcement of property rights. The next best solution is to subsidize environmental protection costs. Without disturbing social optimality, this subsidy can be financed through a flat tax; a tax proportional, to the return on investment is least costly. The commonly used tax proportional to the return on investment is least efficient.

In pursuit of sustainable development – rethinking the planning system: (Yvonne Rydin, London School of Economics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Using the planning system to help achieve sustainable development is a stated goal of United Kingdom government policy set out in *Planning Policy Guidance 1* (1997), the Sustainable Development Strategy *A Better Quality of Life* (1999) and the *Planning Green Paper* (2001). Indeed, the current *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill*, under Clause 38, would require those responsible for preparing plans (regional spatial strategies and local development documents in England and local development plans in Wales) to exercise their functions 'with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development'. Many practising built environment professionals are committed to using the planning system to further such ambitions and a number of academics have carved out a new area of analysis linking planning and sustainability.

However, to date, most of these statements of policy and analyses of planning have either taken the form of hopes for what the planning system might achieve or been critical examinations of why the planning system is failing. This paper offers the opportunity for more creative thinking about what the planning system should look like if it is to make a mark in terms of the sustainability agenda.

14 September 2004: An event was held in September 2004 which saw the launch of three major reports that sought to highlight and promote issues that need to be included in the research agenda in urban sustainability. These reports were;

- **Renewable energy and the built environment – the research agenda**: (David Fell et all, Brook Lyndhurst consultancy, United Kingdom): It is clear that the nature and pattern of our built environment both shapes and is shaped by energy issues. The question that we have, therefore, posed is what are the possible impacts on built

environment processes and outcomes of new and emerging approaches to energy production and distribution and of different patterns of energy use? There are five major themes around which research needs to be focused, with the first of these being the most important one. The themes are as follows: (a) The role of the planning process in enabling the development of renewable energy; (b) The attitude of occupiers, developers and investors towards the take-up of renewable energy; (c) The potential for the adoption of combined heat and power, photovoltaic and embedded systems; (d) The adoption of scenario planning techniques for different energy use outcomes; (e) The wider economic benefits and benefits of the greater adoption of renewable energy

- **The role of parks and open spaces in urban vitality – the research agenda**: (Carys Swanwick et al, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom): Competition for space and high land prices make it hard to justify the creation, or indeed the retention, of open space if decision makers cannot clearly see its value and contribution to urban life. The question that we pose is to explore what contribution parks and open spaces make to urban vitality. There are three broad themes to focus research on (a) The relationships between open spaces and vitality in commercial centres; (b) Open spaces and the development of neighbour-hood vitality; (c) The role of parks and open spaces in altering the perception of cities.

- **The funding and development of the built environment – the research agenda**: (Michael Edwards et al, University College London, United Kingdom): While there is some level of agreement that we need to think more carefully and deeply about how we manage and develop the urban form, some of this apparent agreement is deceptive. It comes from the very different meanings people use when they talk about 'sustainability'. They have different kinds of breakdown in mind when they ask for change in the way we finance and organise development.

Outcomes : Through these activities we have sought to raise awareness among practitioners and policy-makers in the built environment profession as to the importance of sustainable development. This is in line with the aims of United Nations Millennium Development Goal Number 7, Ensure Environmental Sustainability and in particular the topic with that, to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes.

Since the last meeting, little progress has been made, as a result of changes in staff and loss of donor support. A re-constituted board of trustees has now been appointed, with a remit to seek to raise donor support for a continuing programme of research on sustainability and urban development. Bon Hall, who has been involved in the Real Estate Advisory Group (REAG) of the United National Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is a trustee of the RICS Foundation and is in a position to advise on opportunities for the RICS Foundation to become more heavily involved in the work of the United Nations.

The RICS Foundation has not attended or participated in any meetings of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, due to scarce representative staff (one member of staff with responsibilities going beyond just the RICS Foundation) and volunteer trustees, all based in the United Kingdom, with no resources for travel.

5. World Organization of Building Officials

(Special; 1987)

Part I: Introduction

The World Organization of Building Officials-WOBO has been engaged in various efforts to support the goals and objectives of its purpose statement, by-laws and mission statement, concurrently with the broad goals of the United Nations. Programs, meetings and related events have been organized and attended in order to exchange ideas and concepts relating to a broad cross section of the built environment.

The program areas that WOBO is involved with have relevance to several United Nations Councils including, but not limited to the Economic and Social Council, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Center for Human Settlements (United Nations Habitat), and the International Labor Organization (ILO) among others. These segments of the UN have program related criteria that correlate to the purpose and objectives of WOBO. Specifically, these elements are:

Purpose

- To act as a media to transfer information from nation to nation, generators of technical information to users of the information
- To promote the concept of international standards and building codes for construction, materials, equipment and appliances

Objectives

- To promote safeguards from potential hazards and to recommend solutions for preventing fire risks in existing buildings or buildings under construction
- To promote the concept of standardizing construction materials, equipment and appliances
- To promote the unification of legislation pertaining to the administration of codes and standards
- To collaborate with international organizations, governments and educational institutes to promote the development of training programs for building officials
- To encourage the establishment of national organizations for building officials and national advisory committees
- To promote conferences, seminars and congresses of a national and international character in furthering the objectives of the organization
- To promote the communication and exchange of information internationally through the WOBO News.

During this reporting period, WOBO had transitioned to a new secretariat and administering organization – National Fire Protection Association. During the WOBO Board of Governors meeting held in April of 2002 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America, a discussion on the upcoming (2003) WOBO Sixth World Congress and Board of Governors meeting was completed as well as discussion on how certain actions of the organization would be carried out. 2002 - 2003 thus marked a year in which some organizational philosophies were discussed. Based on previous

actions, the leadership of WOBO, specifically the Board of Governors, was to be selected from any of the defined member categories. While the constituency of WOBO is primarily directed at entities that enforce building regulations, the membership of WOBO recognizes that contribution from practicing architects, engineers and building contractors can also play a critical role in support of the WOBO mission.

Part II: Activities

A summary of WOBO events and activities for the period of the report are as follows.

2003

- 17-21 May, 2003: Dallas, Texas, United States. The WOBO Sixth World Congress was held. This meeting included a series of eight technical presentations, a membership meeting to discuss current activities and selection of a Board of Governors and officials. The event was held concurrently with the NFPA Annual Meeting. NFPA was asked to provide the Secretary/Treasurer duties as well as the appropriate administrative support to WOBO.
- June-December, 2003: The WOBO Administrator and Secretary/ Treasurer developed a website (www.wobo-un.org), updated the history, by-laws and purpose statements and made such information available to the public on the website; Provided summaries of activities (presentations, meeting minutes, financial statements) on the website; stabilized and updated the membership.

2004

- 21-22 April 2004: *Tokyo, Japan. Joint Technical Seminar with Japanese Council of Building Officials (JCBO) on high-rise building design and construction issues – 21 April 2004/WOBO Board of Governors meeting-22 April 2004*. This two day event drew a large representation of JCBO members. Topics ranged from conceptual ideas concerning high-rise building safety, use of innovative construction materials and application of performance based design concepts.
- The WOBO Board of Governors established a Memorandum of Understanding with NFPA to authorize transfer of WOBO funds from the United Arab Emirates Contractors Organization (the previous secretariat) and an authorization for NFPA to manage the funds on behalf of WOBO in the future.

2005

- 3-5 January 2005: Through the Secretary/Treasurer office, letters and faxes, with follow up phone calls, were sent to the Asia-Pacific Disaster Preparedness Center and the ILO offices in Geneva to see if there would be an assistance role for WOBO in the aftermath of the Asia-Pacific Tsunami. Unfortunately, no response was ever received.
- 18-21 November 2005: *Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Shenzhen and Guangzhou, China: WOBO Board of Governors meeting and technical tours*. On 18 November, 2005, the governors discussed preliminary plans for the Seventh World Congress. In addition, discussions ensued on attendance at upcoming United Nations events, including the United Nations Habitat conference scheduled for June, 2006 in Vancouver, Canada.

On 19 November 2005, a joint technical seminar co-sponsored by the Hong Kong SAR of China Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) was held. The theme of the seminar was on the devastating effects to infrastructure and buildings from the Asia-Pacific Tsunami, bush fires in Australia and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, United States.

On 20-21 November 2005: Several WOBO governors participated in technical visits to Shenzhen and Guangzhou, China. Meetings were held with plan reviewers and a talk and technical tour was given at the Mega-University Complex in Guangzhou.

2006

- 18-24 June, 2006: Vancouver, British Columbia Canada. The Founding President and Secretary/Treasurer attended the United Nations, World Urban Forum, Third Congress (WUF3). In addition to attending many of the scheduled presentations and seminars, informal discussions were held with the Executive Director of United Nations Habitat, the Housing Minister of Afghanistan and the Construction and Housing Ministers of India among others.
- 17-20 September 2006: Orlando, Florida, United States. The Seventh World Congress was held in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the International Code Council. A series of technical presentations were held concerning innovative and unique design challenges. Subjects covered included: "Green" building construction; design overview of the Central China Television (CCTV) headquarters building; Challenges of conducting proper residential construction inspections; and the infrastructure/facilities design at Walt Disney World, United States. A membership meeting and Board of Governors meeting were held. A primary topic of discussion centered on the WUF3 Conference and to determine who would be able to attend the United Nations Habitat meetings in Nairobi in 2007.